

**PATENT**

**Application 10/730,577**

**Attorney Docket 2000-0222 (1014-056)**

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the consideration provided to this application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner is also thanked for determining each of claims 1-9 and 17-27 allowable.

Each of claims 10-16 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, only allowable claims 1-9 and 17-27 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1 and 17 is in independent form.

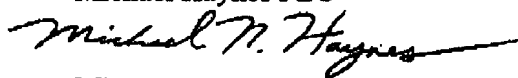
**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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